

Appln No. 10/600,782
Amdt date July 14, 2006
Reply to Office action of April 6, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the objection to the claims, the typographical error in Claim 7 has been corrected. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is requested.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Okawa Genichi JP 02002182828A, for the reasons set forth in section 4. However, under section 102(a) a claim is not patentable only if the invention was known or used by others or patented or described in a printed publication before the invention thereof by applicant.

The Okawa reference does not qualify as prior art under section 102(a).

More specifically, the inventor in the Okawa reference is the same person as the inventor in this application, and therefore, is not an invention by others. Furthermore, the Okawa application being Okawa's own application is not a disclosure before the invention by Okawa. Withdrawal of the rejection as used on the Okawa reference is requested.

Attention is called to the fact that the cited reference lists the applicant as "Okawa" Genichi, Genichi being the given name of Mr. Okawa.

The correct given name of Mr. Okawa is in the present application and is "Motokazu". The name Genichi is used in the Patent Abstracts of Japan due to an error by the Japanese Patent Office.

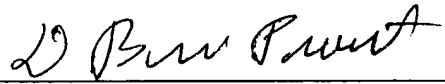
In this regard, attached herewith is a declaration of Mr. Motokazu Okawa, pointing out the error and noting that he is indeed the inventor of the Okawa reference.

Appln No. 10/600,782
Amdt date July 14, 2006
Reply to Office action of April 6, 2006

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the objection and early allowance of the present application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 

D. Bruce Prout
Reg. No. 20,958
626/795-9900

DBP/rf

Enclosure: Declaration of Motokazu Okawa

MEE PAS691128.1-* -07/13/06 5:36 PM